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Richard L. Alexander	57,461
Name of Attorney/Agent	Registration No.
<i>[Signature]</i>	
Signature of Attorney	

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P&G Case 8494

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of :
 Michael Donovan Mitchell, et al. : Confirmation No. 3612
 Serial No. 09/832,581 : Group Art Unit 1724
 Filed April 11, 2001 : Primary Examiner Ivars C. Cintins

For **FILTERS AND FILTER MATERIALS FOR THE REMOVAL OF MICROORGANISMS
AND PROCESSES FOR USING THE SAME**

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED DECEMBER 16, 2002

Mail Stop Fee Amendment
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

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 Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(a) has been filed concurrently
 herewith this Response and should be treated as a constructive petition for the purpose of extending the
 period for responding to the above-described Office Action for three (3) months from March 16, 2003 to
 June 16, 2003. As such, this Response is timely filed.

Please amend the subject application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 15, 30, 36, and 46-52 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 4-9, 12-14, 16, 17, 26, 27, 29, 31, 32, 35, 37, 38, 41-45 as follows:

- B₁
1. (Amended) A filter for removing microorganisms from a fluid, comprising:
 - a) a housing having an inlet and an outlet; and
 - b) a filter material disposed within said housing, said filter material formed at least in part from a plurality of filter particles comprising a carbonized and activated lignosulfonate coating.

- B₂
4. (Amended) The filter of claim 1, wherein the carbon add-on in said carbonized and activated lignosulfonate coating is between about 0.1% and about 85%.